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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/51/L.19/Rev.1)]

51/151. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,[1]

Recalling the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on regional arrangements or agencies, which set forth the basic principles governing their activities and establishing the legal framework for cooperation with the United Nations in the area of the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as resolution 49/57 of 9 December 1994, the annex to which contains the Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security,

Recalling also the agreement of 15 November 1965 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity as updated and signed on 9 October 1990 by the Secretaries-General of the two organizations,

Recalling further its resolutions on the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, in particular resolutions 43/12 of 25 October 1988, 43/27 of 18 November 1988, 44/17 of 1 November 1989, 45/13 of 7 November 1990, 46/20 of 26 November 1991, 47/148 of 18 December 1992, 48/25 of 29 November 1993, 49/64 of 15 December 1994 and 50/158 of 21 December 1995,

[1] A/51/386.

Recalling that, in its resolutions 46/20, 47/148 and 48/25, it, inter alia, urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system to extend their support for the establishment of the African Economic Community,

Recalling also its resolution 48/214 of 23 December 1993 on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Taking note of the resolutions, decisions and declarations adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-fourth ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 1 to 5 July 1996, and by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-second ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 8 to 10 July 1996,[2]

Considering the important statement made by the Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity before the General Assembly on 24 October 1996,[3]

Mindful of the need for continued and closer cooperation between the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the Organization of African Unity, in particular in the political, economic, social, technical, cultural and administrative fields,

Noting that the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the Organization of African Unity is developing its capacity in preventive diplomacy,

Also noting the efforts of the Organization of African Unity, and the support and assistance of the United Nations, to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts in Africa and the harmonious continuation of the process of democratization,

Deeply concerned that, despite the policies of reform being implemented by most African countries, their economic situation remains critical and African recovery and development continue to be severely hindered by the persistence of lower-level commodity prices, the heavy debt burden and the paucity of funding possibilities,

Aware of the efforts being made by the Organization of African Unity and its States members in the area of economic integration and of the need to accelerate the process of implementation of the African Economic Community,

Deeply concerned about the gravity of the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa and the urgent need for increased international assistance to help refugees and, subsequently, African countries of asylum,

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[2] A/51/524, annexes I and II.

[3] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Plenary meetings, 40th meeting, and corrigendum.

Acknowledging the assistance already rendered by the international community, in particular to refugees, displaced persons and African countries of asylum,

Recognizing the importance of developing and maintaining a culture of peace, tolerance and harmonious relationships in order to contribute to the prevention of conflicts and wars in Africa,

Taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[4]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity[1] and of his efforts to strengthen that cooperation and to implement the relevant resolutions;

2. Notes with appreciation the continued and increasing participation of the Organization of African Unity in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and its constructive contribution to that work;

3. Calls upon the United Nations organs, in particular the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, to continue to involve the Organization of African Unity closely in all their activities concerning Africa;

4. Welcomes the fact that both the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity have agreed to strengthen and broaden their cooperation in measures to prevent and resolve conflicts in Africa, and in this regard invites the United Nations to provide the Organization of African Unity with the necessary support for the consolidation and promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and harmonious relationships in Africa;

5. Calls upon the United Nations to coordinate its efforts and to cooperate with the Organization of African Unity in the context of the pacific settlement of disputes and the maintenance of international peace and security in Africa, as provided for under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. Commends the efforts of the Organization of African Unity to strengthen its capacity in the field of conflict resolution and to operationalize its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in Africa;

7. Also commends the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity for their ongoing cooperative activities in the resolution of conflicts in Africa, and stresses the need to enhance and strengthen the existing pattern of exchange of information and consultations, especially in the areas of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping operations;

8. Invites the United Nations to assist the Organization of African Unity in strengthening its institutional and operational capacity in the

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[4] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/51/48).

prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa, in particular in the following areas:

(a) Establishment of an early-warning system;

(b) Technical assistance and training of personnel, including a staff exchange programme;

(c) Exchange and coordination of information between their respective early-warning systems;

(d) Logistical support;

(e) Mobilization of financial support;

9. Urges the United Nations to enhance its cooperation with, and facilitate the participation of, the Organization of African Unity in its preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping operations and in joint fact-finding missions in Africa, by providing technical assistance and secondments and assisting in the mobilization of financial and logistical support;

10. Also urges the United Nations to encourage donor countries, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, to provide adequate funding and training for African countries in their efforts to enhance their peacekeeping capabilities, with a view to enabling those countries to participate actively in peacekeeping operations within the framework of the United Nations;

11. Notes with appreciation the assistance provided by the United Nations and its agencies to African countries in the context of the democratization process;

12. Urges the United Nations to continue to support the Organization of African Unity in its efforts to manage a peaceful democratic transition in Africa, in particular in the areas of education for democracy, election observation, human rights and freedom, including technical support to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;

13. Urges all Member States and regional and international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, to provide the necessary and appropriate economic, financial and technical assistance to refugees and displaced persons, as well as to the African countries of asylum, taking into account recent disquieting developments in this respect;

14. Commends the continued efforts of the Organization of African Unity to promote multilateral cooperation and economic integration among African States, and requests the United Nations agencies to continue to support those efforts;

15. Stresses that the economic, technical and development assistance provided to Africa by the organizations of the United Nations system must continue, and emphasizes the current need for those organizations to accord priority to Africa in this field;

16. Urges the Secretary-General, Member States, regional and international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations to extend their support to the operations of the African Economic Community and to assist in economic integration and cooperation in Africa, in particular the strengthening of the regional economic communities, the preparation of the protocols to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, its popularization and the strengthening of its institutional support;

17. Requests the agencies of the United Nations system working in Africa to include in their programmes at the national and regional levels activities that will enhance regional cooperation in their respective areas and to facilitate the realization of the objectives of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;

18. Calls upon the United Nations agencies to intensify the coordination of their regional programmes in Africa in order to create interlinkages among them and to ensure the harmonization of their programmes with those of the African regional and subregional economic organizations;

19. Emphasizes the urgency of the need to adopt appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in particular regarding (a) economic reforms, including the effective mobilization and efficient utilization of domestic resources, (b) promotion of the private sector and foreign direct investment, (c) intensification of the democratic process and the strengthening of civil society, (d) environment and development, (e) resource flows, (f) solution of Africa's debt problem, (g) trade facilitation and market access, (h) diversification of African economies, (i) improvement of physical and institutional infrastructure and social and human resource development and (j) women in development;

20. Urges all States and international subregional and regional organizations actively to implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-term Review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, as adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

21. Invites the Secretary-General to associate the Organization of African Unity closely with the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including the conduct of the final review of its implementation in the year 2002;

22. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to work closely with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and requests that it be given prominence at the annual meeting of the two organizations;

23. Recalls its resolution 48/214, in paragraph 10 of which it invited the Secretary-General to follow up and promote the responses of the United Nations system and the international community to the development concerns of Africa, as expressed in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

24. Takes note with appreciation of the recommendations of the meeting between the secretariats of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations held at Addis Ababa from 6 to 9 November 1995, and requests the convening of a follow-up meeting in 1997, at Addis Ababa, to review and evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations agreed at the 1995 meeting and to adopt new and effective joint action;

25. Calls upon the relevant organs of the United Nations system to ensure the effective, fair and equitable representation of Africa at senior and policy levels at their respective headquarters and in their regional field operations;

26. Requests the relevant organs of the United Nations system to continue to assist the Organization of African Unity in strengthening its capacity for information gathering, analysis and dissemination through the training of personnel and the mobilization of technical and financial assistance;

27. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen and improve follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa;

28. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the development of cooperation between the Organization of African Unity and the organizations of the United Nations system.

84th plenary meeting
13 December 1996